



2. CONCLUSIONS OF THE PANEL

a. The witnesses were impressed (as have been others; similar to the case of the 1951 case) by the lack of sound data in the great majority of the first cases; also, in the lack of openly following the principles of the Panel. Several limited facilities of the AFSS section concerning the collection and distribution of significant sightings discussed in a letter to the witnesses:

Washington, Ohio (2 August 1952); Farmington, Utah (2 July 1952);
Mont Falls, Montana (15 August 1952); Park, Montana (1 September 1952);
Washington, D. C. area (29 July 1952); and Farnela A. F. (29 July 1952);
Saguenay (5 August 1952); Fort Huron, Michigan (29 July 1952); and
Berkley Hills, Maine (20 October 1952).

After review and discussion of these cases (and about 35 others in some detail), the Panel concluded that reasonable explanations could be suggested for most sightings and they detected and explained it could be inferred (given additional data) that other cases might be explained in a similar manner. The Panel pointed out that because of the brevity of some sightings (e.g. 2-3 seconds) and the inaccuracy of the witnesses' reports themselves clearly (sometimes) that conclusive explanations would not be expected for every case reported. Furthermore, it was considered that, normally, it would be a great waste of effort to try to solve most of the sightings, unless such action would result in a training and educational program (see below). The writings of Charles Fort were referenced to show

...the ... were ... (as have been ...; ...
... the lack of sound data in the great majority
... the lack of ... follow-up ...
... the ... facilities of the ...
... of significant sightings ...
... sightings

Helmetsville, Ohio (2 August 1952); Farmington, Utah (2 July 1952);
Mount ... (15 August 1950); ... (1 September
1952); Washington, D. C. area (30 July 1952); and ...
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(...). The ... of ... were referenced to show



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that "strange things in the sky" had been recorded for hundreds of years. It appeared obvious that there was no single explanation for a majority of the things seen. The presence of radar and other national specialists on the Panel proved of value at once in their confident recognition of phenomena related to their fields. It was apparent that specialists in such additional fields as psychology, aptitude, aerodynamics, ornithology and military air operations would extend the ability of the Panel to recognize many new categories of unidentified phenomena.

OPINION OF PANEL

The Panel concluded unanimously that there was no evidence of a direct threat to national security in the objects sighted. Instances of "Foo Fighters" were cited. These were unexplained phenomena sighted by aircraft pilots during World War II in both European and Far East theaters of operation wherein "balls of light" would fly near or with the aircraft and maneuver rapidly. They were believed to be electrostatic (similar to St. Elmo's fire) or electromagnetic phenomena or possibly light reflections from ice crystals in the air, but their exact cause or nature was never defined. Both Robertson and Alvarez had been concerned in the investigation of these phenomena, but David T. Griggs (Professor of Geophysics at the University of California at Los Angeles) is believed to have been the most knowledgeable person on this subject. If the term "flying saucers" had been popular in 1943 - 1945, these objects would

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It was interesting that in at least two cases, however, that the object sighted was categorized by Robertson and Whitten as possibly "UFO sightings", to date unexplained but not dangerous, they were not happy thus to dismiss the sightings by calling them hoaxes. It was their feeling that these phenomena are not beyond the domain of present knowledge of physical sciences; however.

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It was the Panel's opinion that some of the Air Force's concern over U.F.O.'s (notwithstanding Mr. Defense Command anxiety over Soviet nuclear threats) was probably caused by public pressure. The result being, is that the Air Force has instituted a fine channel for receiving reports of nearly anything anyone sees in the sky and fails to understand. This has been particularly encouraged in popular articles on this and other subjects, such as space travel and science fiction. The result is the mass receipt of low-grade reports which tend to overload channels of communication with material quite irrelevant to hostile objects that might some day appear. The Panel agreed generally that this mass of poor-quality reports containing little, if any, scientific data was of no value. Quite the opposite, it was possibly dangerous in having a military service foster public concern in "nocturnal twinkling lights". The implication being, since the interested agency was military, that these objects were a threat to potential direct threats to national security. Accordingly, the need for declassification made itself apparent. Comments on a possible educational program are enumerated below.

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It was the opinion of Mr. Robertson that the "crucial" problem in the development of the defense in nature from the detection and identification of German V-1 and V-2 guided missiles prior to their operations was in World War II. In the 1943-1944 intelligence operation (PROSECUTION), this was excellent intelligence and by June 1944 there was material evidence of the existence of "Hitler's" claimed secret crashed V-1s in Sweden. This evidence gave the investigating team a basis upon which to operate. The chance of any "breakthrough" resulting from unexplained U.F.O. sightings leads a "wild" (and the wing) nature to the MIB problem. The results of their investigation, to date, strongly indicate that no evidence of hostile attack or danger exists. Furthermore, the current reporting system would have little value in the case of detection of enemy attack by conventional aircraft or guided missiles; under such conditions "breakthrough" would be available almost at once.

THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM

It was interesting to note that none of the members of the Panel were loath to accept that this earth might be visited by extraterrestrial intelligent beings of some sort, some day. What they did not find was any evidence that related the objects sighted to space travelers. Mr. Pennet, in his presentation, showed how he had eliminated each of the known and probable causes of sightings leaving him "unconnected" as the only one remaining in many cases. Pennet's background as an aeronautical engineer and technical intelligence



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... (Project Office, INTERCOM for 33 months) could not be
... However, the Panel could not accept any of the cases
... by him because they were say, unvaluated reports.

Extraterrestrial explanations of the sightings were suggested in some
cases and in others the time of sighting was so short as to cause
doubt of visual impressions. It was noted by Dr. Couderc and
others that extraterrestrial artifacts, if they did exist, are no
new thing; rather, they are in the realm of natural phenomena
subject to scientific study, just as cosmic rays were at the time
of their discovery 20 to 30 years ago. This was an attitude in
which Dr. Robertson did not concur, as he felt that such artifacts
would be of immediate and great concern not only to the U. S. but
to all countries. (Nothing like a common threat to unite peoples!)


Dr. Faye noted that present astronomical knowledge of the solar
system makes the existence of intelligent beings (as we know them)
elsewhere than on the earth extremely unlikely, and the
concentration of their attention by any controllable means confined
to any one continent of the earth quite preposterous.

THE CASE, THE EVIDENCE


This case was considered significant because of the excellent
documentary evidence in the form of Kodachrome motion picture films
(about 1000 frames). The Panel studied these films, the case history,
JANIS interpretation, and received a briefing by representatives of
the U. S. Photo Interpretation Laboratory on their analysis of the
film. This team had analyzed (at Air Force request) approximately

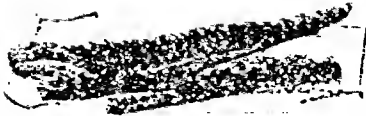

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... the hours of professional and sub-professional time in the preparation of graph plots of individual frames of the film, showing apparent and relative motion of objects and variation in their light intensity. It was the opinion of the P.I.A. representatives that the objects sighted were not birds, balloons or aircraft, were "high reflections" because there was no blinding while passing through 60° of arc and were, therefore, "solid objects". Flare of motion and variation in light intensity of the objects were displayed. While the Panel Members were impressed by the evident understanding, industry and extent of effort of the P.I.A. team, they could not accept the conclusions reached. Some of the reasons for this were as follows:

- a. A semi-spherical object can readily produce a reflection of sunlight without "flaring" through 60° of arc travel.
 - b. Although no data was available on the behavior of birds or polyethylene balloons in bright sunlight, the apparent motions, sizes and brightnesses of the objects were considered strongly to suggest birds, particularly after the Panel viewed a short film showing high reflectivity of corgis in bright sunlight.
 - c. P.I.A. description of the objects sighted as "circular, black-white" in color would be expected in cases of specular reflections of sunlight from convex surfaces where the brilliance of the reflection would obscure other portions of the object.
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1. The objects in the Great Falls case were believed to have probably been different, and the bright lights such reflectors.
2. There was no valid reason for the attempt to relate the objects in the formation sighting to those in the Great Falls sighting. This may have been due to misunderstanding in their objective. The objects in the Great Falls sighting are strongly suspected of being reflectors of aircraft known to have been in the area.
3. The intensity change in the formation lights was too great for acceptance of the U.F.O. hypothesis that the apparent pulsed and changing intensity of the lights indicated extremely high speed in small orbital paths.
4. Apparent lack of guidance of investigators by those familiar with U.F.O. reports and explanations.
5. Analysis of light intensity of objects made from duplicate rather than original film. The original film was noted to have a much lighter background (affecting relative brightness of object) and the object appeared much less bright.
6. Method of obtaining data of light intensity appeared faulty because of unavailability of equipment and questionable assumptions in making averages of readings.
7. No data had been obtained on the sensitivity of Kodachrome film to light of various intensities using the same camera type at the same lens openings.
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... That "system" in question (which is the main body part of the "system" film) was not removed from the plates of the "system" film plates at the end of the film.

... That he believed strongly that the data available on this subject was sufficient for the purpose of identification of persons who are desired by photographing polyethylene "yellow" balloons released from the ships under various weather conditions, checking with flight and reflection characteristics with competent scientists and consulting agencies. He believed that the objects from their eyesight would be. It was considered that the results of such tests would provide a basis for identification of value in an investigation or training program. However, the French noted that the cost in technical equipment effort required to follow up and explain every one of the thousands of balloons released through channels each year (1,000 in 1945) would not be justified. It was felt that there will always be balloons, for which complete data is lacking, that can only be obtained with delay. The effort can wait a long time delay, if at all. The long delay in obtaining the data tends to be a hindrance to intelligence work. It is felt that training program should be as a major purpose to develop a popular feeling that every citizen, no matter how far from the ship, can be explained in detail. The effort should be directed to the development of every scientist that is possible, to be applied, and be completely and completely demonstrated. In other words, the burden of proof is on the ship.



THE INTELLIGENCE PROBLEM

The Panel believed there is agreement with O/DI opinion that, although evidence of any direct threat from these sightings was lacking, related dangers might well exist involving some

- a. Misidentification of actual enemy activities by defense personnel.
- b. Overstating of enemy activity by reporting channels with "false" information (false or signal radio analogy--Bartlett).
- c. Subjectivity of pilots to mass hysteria and greater vulnerability to possible enemy psychological warfare.

Although not the concern of ODI, the first two of these problems may seriously affect the Air Force intelligence system, and should be studied by experts, possibly under ASD. If U.F.O.'s become identified in connection to the "flying saucer" scare, or if reporting channels are saturated with false and poorly documented reports, our capability of detecting hostile activity will be reduced.

Dr. Page noted that more competent screening or filtering of reported sightings at or near the source is required, and that this can best be accomplished by an additional program.

THE PANEL'S PERIODIC REVIEW OF REPORTED SIGHTINGS

The map prepared by ASD showing geographic locations of officially reported unexplained sightings (1952 only) was examined by the Panel. This map showed clusters in certain strategic areas such as Los Angeles. This might be explained on the basis of 24-hour watchful guard and

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On the other hand, the majority were more such locations. On the other hand, there had been no sightings in the vicinity of sensitive points or installations while there were considerably multiple cases of unexplained sightings in non-strategic areas. Furthermore, there appeared to be no logical relationship to population centers. The Panel could find no ready explanation for these clusters. It was noted, however, that all suspected sightings were to be observed at night or twilight and would be seen from near foreign areas rather than within U. S. borders.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel was of the opinion that the present ATIS program to place 200 inoperative 35 mm. stereo cameras in the hands of various airport control tower operators would probably produce little reliable data related to U.F.O.'s. However, it was recognized that such action would tend to allay public concern in the subject until an educational program had taken effect. It was believed that present awareness of these cameras was partly the result of public exposure in July 1952. With the poor results of the year-long Project ATIS program of 24-hour instrumentation watch (two frames of film showing nothing distinguishable), a widespread program of sky-watching would not be expected to yield much direct data of value.

There was considerable discussion of a possible "sky patrol" by amateur astronomers (Hynd) and by wide-angle cameras (Pogo). Dr. Pogo and Dr. Robertson pointed out that at present a considerable fraction

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...for many years under careful supervision...
...in order to observe and record observing programs...
...of the various institutions listed below...
...the attention of these astronomers is largely directed
...of identified rather than unidentified objects, no case of any
...unidentified object is known to ^{the public} Dr. Pogo or Dr. Lynch. Such
...in the world must certainly be reported if found on patrol plates.

...was asked there an astronomer refused to interrupt his
...in order to photograph an alleged sighting in a different
...of the city. This led Dr. Lynch to say that, if a program of
...could be an adjunct of planned astronomical programs, little
...would be involved and that the trained astronomical personnel
...photograph a sighting of an unidentified object.

The location of some of these programs and their directors are
referred to as:

- a. Harvard University, Cambridge Mass. (meteor patrol,
Huggins).
- b. Yerkes Observatory, University of Chicago and Fort Davis, Texas
(several programs) - Schmidt (comets), Kuiper (asteroids),
Morgan (wide angle camera).
- c. University of Alaska, Fairbanks (comets) - Elvey
- d. Dominion Observatory, Ottawa (meteors) - Williams
- e. Lick Observatory, California (sky map) - Minnowald
- f. Rich Observatory, California (sky map) - Shano

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It was agreed by the Panel that no government-sponsored program of official which made any person is worthwhile at the present time, and that the encouragement of amateur inventors to undertake such a program might have the adverse effect of over-emphasizing "flying saucer" stories in the public mind. However, the issue of radar technology and the recording peculiar radar echoes would serve several purposes, including the better understanding of radar interference as well as identification of U.S.A.'s.

ANALYSIS OF SIGNAL IDENTIFICATION

This characteristic problem of radar operation wherein the pulse signal (of approximately the same frequency) from station A may be picked up on the screen of station B and show as a high-speed track or series of dots was recognized to have probably caused a number of U.S.C. reports. This problem was underlined by information received indicating JCS concern in solving this problem of signal identification in future service use of very high-speed aircraft or guided missiles (1955-1956). ^{Dr. K. H. Smith} Dr. [Name] collected that one answer to this problem was the use of a "duplexer filter" in the receiving circuit. ^{Another} [Dr. Alvarez] suggested that the problem might be better solved by the use of a "resonant filter" wherein the operator receiving "very fast tracks" (on the order of 1000-20,000 m.p.h.) would operate a circuit which would alter slightly his station's pulse frequency rate. If the signal received on the screen had been caused by mutual interference with another station, the track would now show itself at a different distance

the surface of the screen, at 10:00 AM, appeared at all. Dr. Abrams
with a repeated solution was simpler and would cost less than
the "system" method.

REMARKS ON THE REPORTS


The reported cases were examined: one at Palomar Mountain, California,
in October 1959, when cosmic ray counters were "off scale" for a few seconds,
apparently while a "V" of flying objects was observed visually; and two, a
series of observations by the "Los Alamos Bird Watchers Association" from
August 1958 to January 1959, when cosmic ray coincidence counters functioned
normally. Original diagrams and records were available for the latter, and
Dr. Abrams was able quickly to point out that the recorded data were
undoubtedly due to instrumental effects that would have been recognized
as such by more experienced observers.

The implication that radioactive effects were correlated with
unidentified flying objects in these two cases was, therefore, rejected
by the Panel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel's concept of a broad educational program integrating
efforts of all concerned agencies was that it should have two major
aims: "training" and "determing".

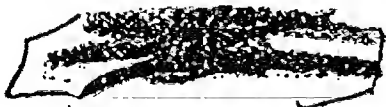
The training aim would result in proper recognition of naturally
familiar objects (e.g., balloons, aircraft reflections) as well as
natural phenomena (meteors, fireballs, mirages, noctilucent clouds).
Both visual and radar recognition are concerned. There would be many




forms in such situations when enlisted personnel to combat and research personnel. Relative emphasis and degree of explanation of different programs would correspond to the categories of duty (e.g., radio operators; pilots; combat tank operators; ground observer corps personnel; and officers and enlisted men in other categories.) This training should result in a marked reduction in reports caused by misidentification and resultant confusion.

The "coloring" can would result in education in public interest in "living sources" which today evokes a strong psychological reaction. This education could be accomplished by mass media such as television, motion pictures, and popular articles. Each of such education would be actual case histories which had been passing at first but later explained. As in the case of confusing tricks, there is much loss of attention if the "source" is known. Such a program should tend to reduce the current gullibility of the public and consequently their susceptibility to clever hostile propaganda. The Panel noted that the general absence of Russian propaganda based on a subject with no army and no possibilities for exploitation might indicate a possible Russian official policy.


Members of the Panel had various suggestions related to the planning of such an educational program. It was felt strongly that psychologists familiar with mass psychology should advise on the nature and extent of the program. In this connection, Dr. Hovley Cantrell (Princeton University) was suggested. Cantrell authored "Invasion from





library in study in the psychology of panic, written about the famous
Dr. Walter Dill Scott (died in 1939) and has some pertinent advanced
educational studies in the field of perception. The names of Ben McGraw
(University of Michigan) and Leo Rosten were mentioned as possibly
available as consultant psychologists. Also, someone familiar with
radio communication techniques, perhaps an advertising expert, would be
helpful. Arthur Godfrey was mentioned as possibly a valuable channel
of communication reaching a mass audience of certain levels. Dr. Hynak
suggested the U. S. Navy (ONR) Special Devices Center, Sanit Point, L. I.,
as a potentially valuable organization to assist in such an educational
program. The training techniques used by this agency for aircraft
identification during the past are given as an example of a similar
educational task. [The Jan Henry Co. which made World War II training
films (motion picture and slide strips) was also suggested, as well as
Walt Disney, Inc. animated cartoons. Dr. Hynak suggested that the
entire experience in the U. S. might be a potential source of entertain-
ment talent "to spread the gospel". It was believed that business
clubs, high schools, colleges, and television stations would all be
pleased to cooperate in the showing of documentary type motion pictures
if prepared in an interesting manner. The use of two cases showing
first the "mystery" and then the "explanation" would be forceful.

To plan and execute such a program, the Panel believed was no
small task. The current investigatory group at AFRO would, of necessity,
have to be closely integrated for support with respect to not only the



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...the possibility of "spies" ... at different distances ...
...the various conditions at the time.

The ... of one or two paid agents and ... and a ...
... the ... would be necessary in addition. The ...
... the ... should be ... as necessary ...
... in implementing any action taken as a result of ...
... . Experiences and records in AFSS would be of value ...
... the public educational and service training program envisaged.

(Mr. ... is of the opinion that after public ...
... and the survey organizations, such as AFSS, had been trained ...
... the more readily explained obvious sightings, there would ...
... a role for a very modest-sized AFSS section to cope with the ...
... of items of possible scientific intelligence value. This ...
... should concentrate on energetically following up (perhaps on ...
... of (qualified Air Force Scientific Advisory Board members) ...
... cases which seemed to indicate the evidence of unconventional ...
... artifacts. Reports of such artifacts would be expected to ...
... arise mainly from Western outposts in far closer proximity to the ...
... than ... , ...

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The ... took cognizance of the existence of such groups as the ...
"Million Flying Saucer Investigators" (Los Angeles) and the "Aerial ...
... Research Organization (Massachusetts). It was believed that ...
... should be watched because of their potentially ...

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1. Director John F. Kennedy
President

2. Deputy Director
Robert F. Kennedy

3. Chief of Staff
Lyndon B. Johnson

4. Director of Central Intelligence
John Edgar Hoover

5. Director of National Defense
Robert McNamara

6. Director of State
Dean Rusk

7. Director of Defense Research and Engineering
James D. Martin

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James D. Martin

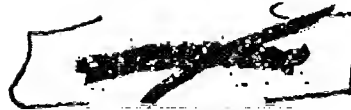
18. Director of Defense Research and Engineering
James D. Martin

19. Director of Defense Research and Engineering
James D. Martin

20. Director of Defense Research and Engineering
James D. Martin

21. Director of Defense Research and Engineering
James D. Martin

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Page 1

U.S. Army
HISTORICAL SERVICE

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1. Summary and chronological listing of sightings 1951 - 1952 (included by Project DIRECTOR).
2. Summary Report of Progress REPORT of Project DIRECTOR and Project DIRECTOR (also known as A-17 study of subject).
3. Summary Report of Project DIRECTOR (also known as Kathleen Martin) in connection with sighting ATIO).
4. Summary Report of Sightings at Williams Air Force Base, New Mexico.
5. Report of USAF Research Center, Cambridge, Mass., Investigation of "Unexplained Phenomena" (Project DIRECTOR).
6. Summary of Investigation of T.O.C.s Reported by Cleveland Air Force Base (Project DIRECTOR).
7. Summary Report of Sightings at Edwards, Utah, 2 July 1951 (Edwards Field, Nevada, August 1950).
8. Summary Report of 10 selected cases of sightings of various categories (Unexplained, Unidentified, Flying Saucers, etc.).
9. List of manuals - "How to make a REPORT", prepared at AFMIL.
10. Status Showing Plot of Geographic Location of Unexplained Sightings in the United States during 1952.
11. Status Showing Balloon Launching Areas in the United States.
12. Status Showing Selected Foreign Balloon Flight Paths and Relation to Reported Sightings.
13. Status Showing Frequency of Reports of Sightings, 1946 - 1952.
14. Status Showing Categories and Explanations of Sightings.
15. Photographic Reproductions of Polyethylene Film Balloons in Flight (also known as "A-17" or "A-18").

TAB 1

16. Recent picture of capsule in flight, showing high radioactivity.
17. Info. re. reports relating to U.S.S.R. interest in U. S. Significance.
18. Copies of official U.S. reporting forms and copies of pertinent U.S. Army, Navy and Army Groups Reports re subject.
19. Sample Polyethylene "SHIELD" Ballon (54 inches square).
20. "Vandenberg in Prison Camp", JMW 161 (Manual illustrating unusual spreading characteristics of Service radio).
21. Miscellaneous official letters and foreign intelligence reports dealing with subject.
22. Copies of popular publications dealing with subject (articles in magazines, newspaper clippings and books).